

ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for initiating compression of IP headers of a stream of packets to be sent from a source apparatus to a destination apparatus. IP header compression is initiated by changing the destination address of the IP header of a full header packet to identify the address of a node, such as a router, which serves as an interface to the destination apparatus, and passing the context identifier (CID) and generation fields in a routing header which immediately follows or is inserted to immediately follow the IP header.